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[Redacted]

Middle East Situation Report #14
(as of 1100 EST, 13 January 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

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Fighting between the Lebanese Army and Syrian-backed Druze and Shia elements is continuing today; earlier this morning Druze gunners shelled Christian East Beirut. The Marines returned fire after coming under the heaviest attack in a month.

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- We expect factional fighting and confrontations between the Lebanese Army and government opponents to be fairly intense while the security plan is still under consideration.
- Typically, the belligerents will try to inflict as much damage as they can on their opponents during eleventh hour negotiations but probably will not exceed levels that would make the implementation of security arrangements impossible.

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TERRORISM

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Terrorist attacks against individuals are on the rise in Beirut. [Redacted]
[Redacted] French nationals apparently are being targeted. In one incident the wife of the French cultural attache was wounded.

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- The Egyptian diplomat wounded in one of the attacks was in a French Embassy vehicle at the time. France has handled Egyptian interests in Lebanon since the two countries broke diplomatic relations following the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.
- Terrorist attacks against US persons and others from MNF contributing countries could increase significantly during the next ten days. We are approaching anniversary dates important for Iranian-backed groups, such as the departure of the Shah from Iran (16 January) and the release of US hostages from Tehran (20 January).
- Dramatic terrorist acts could also be timed to coincide with other events, such as the convening of the Islamic Summit Conference in Morocco (16-18 January) or the opening of the new session of the US Congress (23 January).

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PERSIAN GULF

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A Greek press report yesterday says that Greek authorities have information that an Iranian suicide terrorist squad recently arrived in Greece. The police reportedly have increased security around the French, US, Italian, and Iraqi Embassies.

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